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Congress of the United States
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COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION
IN EUROPE (U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

November 20, 2020

Ms. Emily W. Murphy
Administrator
General Services Administration (GSA)
1800 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Administrator Murphy,

I write with grave concern regarding the way you have conducted yourself in your role as the GSA Administrator since you were appointed and confirmed in September and December 2017 respectively. As the GSA Administrator, it is your duty to oversee an agency that sets policy for and manages government property records. Unfortunately, from refusing to disclose pertinent records related to the Old Post Office Building to failing to initiate the transition for President-elect Biden, you have repeatedly shown that you are more interested in protecting President Trump and his personal interests than the American people.

As a senior member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I've been very alarmed by your handling of the Old Post Office Building, which was outleased by the GSA to Donald J. Trump in August 2013. The lease agreement explicitly prohibited any elected official of the U.S. Government from serving as a lessee or from obtaining any benefit that may arise from the lease. When Donald J. Trump became President of the United States, instead of working with our Committee to ascertain the various constitutional issues and conflicts of interests associated with the lease, you made it a priority to protect the President's personal and financial interests by

refusing to provide necessary financial statements and legal memos. When I have contacted you requesting additional information on confidentiality clauses in GSA's outleases or obtaining a redacted lease for the Hotel Monaco, you have ignored my requests entirely or provided unhelpful, vague answers. It is very concerning that you seem more interested in protecting the President as a tenant rather than protecting the American people's interest as a lessor.

Unfortunately, your pattern of protecting the President has continued and threatens our very bedrock of democracy. It is your duty, as in accordance with the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, that you ascertain the "apparent successful candidates for the office of President and Vice President" to begin transition activities after a presidential election. Although President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris have clearly satisfied this standard, you seem intent to repeat your pattern of protecting President Trump and his personal interests over the American people.

During your last few weeks as the GSA Administrator, it is my hope that you will stop obstructing the truth on behalf of the President and start putting the American people's interests first.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress